

What is CoViNet?

March 29, 2024 • vajiramandravi.com



About CoViNet

- It is a network of global laboratories with expertise in human, animal and environmental coronavirus surveillance.
- It will identify and monitor potentially novel coronaviruses that could emerge shortly.
- The network will now have animal health and environmental surveillance and timely risk assessment to feed WHO policies and protective measures.
- In low- and middle-income countries, CoViNet will support the building of more laboratories to monitor MERS-CoV and novel coronaviruses of public health importance.
- Data generated through CoViNet's efforts will guide the work of WHO's Technical Advisory Groups on Viral Evolution (TAG-VE) and Vaccine Composition (TAG-CO-VAC) and others, ensuring global health policies and tools are based on the latest scientific information.
- It currently comprises 36 laboratories from 21 countries in all six WHO regions.
- Three Indian laboratories namely; the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology in Pune, and the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute are part of this network.

Key facts about World Health Organisation

- It was established in 1948, is a specialized agency of the United Nations that connects nations, partners and people to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable – so everyone, everywhere can attain the highest level of health.
 - The governance structure of the [WHO](#) is designed to support the implementation of its mandate and the achievement of its objectives. It includes:
 - Membership: It currently has 194 member states.
 - World Health Assembly (WHA): The highest decision-making body of WHO and comprises representatives from all member States.
 - Secretariat: Responsible for carrying out the policies and programs approved by the WHA.
 - Director-General: Director-General heads the WHA and is supported by a senior management team.
 - Regional Offices: WHO also has six regional offices: Africa, the Americas, Southeast Asia, Europe, Eastern Mediterranean, and Western Pacific.
-

Q1) What is MERS?

It is a viral respiratory disease caused by the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) that was first identified in Saudi Arabia in 2012. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can cause diseases ranging from the common cold to Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Coronavirus disease-2019.

Source: [WHO launches 'CoViNet' — a global laboratory to monitor emerging coronaviruses](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/covinet/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.